

SM - 307  
Statesman House  
Valley Lee  
St. Mary's County, Md.  
C. 1900

Inventory Caption

This well built 2 story frame house with a prominent wood shingled cross pediment is representative of the house built by a successful black farmer in the last quarter of the 19th century and first quarter of the 20th. Like other farm houses of that popular design, its three bay facade is symmetrical, and its floor plan consists of a central passageway flanked by two rooms on each side. This house is but one of several houses built in this landowning black community in the vicinity of Valley Lee.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM -307  
MAGI #1903075604

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

THE STATESMAN HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North side of Happy Land Rd., 0.5 miles  
east of Jct. of Happy Land Rd. and Rt. 249

CITY, TOWN

Valley Lee

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

St. Mary's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
☒ ACCESSIBLE  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Unoccupied

NAME

Ellis Statesman

Telephone #: 301 994-1168

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Happy Land Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Valley Lee

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20692

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: Map. 57 P. 119

Folio #: Liber: 150

Folio: 359

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This handsome two story house stands at the end of a long drive facing Happy Land Rd. and is one of several built by black landowners (such as the Thompson House, S M -308) in this predominantly black community. Some of the land is still farmed, though not nearly as much as in earlier days. Today the house stands alone on the property except for a few small sheds, most of the outbuildings of its farm days having collapsed.

The house was occupied until recently and has been fairly well maintained. In the coming years, however, it will probably decline unless it is re-occupied. The house is two stories in height, three bays in length, the door being centrally located and flanked by double hung sash windows containing 2 x 2 lights. Above each of the openings downstairs is a window of similar design, giving the house a symmetrical appearance. The house is two bays in depth. The exterior is highlighted by gable pediments that cross the front and rear lengths. These pediments and the gable ends are identical in design, each having boxed cornices and returns and a diamond shaped window. The shingle siding in each suggest a borrowing from the Queen Anne style. Two large brick chimneys pierce the ridge of the roof at the mid-point of the first and third bays and probably served back to back fireboxes or stoves for the front and back rooms in each bay. Today the weatherboards are painted a mustard color, in a not particularly understated contrast to the turquoise trim at the windows, doors, and corners.

Since the house was locked, an investigation of the interior was not possible. Its plan was most likely a central passageway with two rooms on either side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Black History

**SPECIFIC DATES**

1890-1910

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This house is representative of the finer farm houses built by successful black landowners in the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th. Its original appearance was more handsome than it is today, for the family who built a house of this quality probably gave considerable attention to the grounds around it.

*NOTE: According to James Sears  
LUTHER STUCKEY (CH-328),  
this home was home to of Joseph  
James Ellis STATESMAN, principal  
of a school in the area.  
He & Stuckey were both  
educators at Black schools  
in the 1930's.*

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Md. Commission on Afro-American History &amp; Culture

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

20 Dean Street

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Annapolis, Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



STATESMAN HOUSE  
STMA 307  
Valley LEE, Md.  
South facade  
GWM 11/77





STATESMAN HOUSE  
STMA 307  
Valley LEE, Md  
NORTHWEST VIEW  
GWM - 11/77 76



STATESMAN HOUSE  
STMA 307  
VALEY LEE, Md.  
NORTHEAST VIEW  
GWM - 11/7976